

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 189294

EXDIS TOSEC 3

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC, SECDEF WASHDC, CJCS
WASHDC, INFO CINCPAC, COMUSSAG SEPTEMBER 22,
1973 FROM PHNOM PENH IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 10139

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, CB

SUBJ: ENCOURAGING FANK SELF-RELIANCE IN PREPARATION
FOR DRY SEASON

1. FANK'S GREATER SELF-RELIANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS AT
KOMPONG CHAM AND ON ROUTE 4 ARE ENCOURAGING.

2. WE ARE TRYING BY VARIOUS DEVICES TO RECOGNIZE THIS
PROGRESS. COMUSSAG GENERAL VOGT HAS CONGRATULATED
MAJGEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ IN A PERSONAL CABLE; HIS
FAREWELL CALL HERE SEPTEMBER 25/16 ON THE HIGH POLITICAL
COUNCIL WILL GIVE A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR ENCOURAGE-
MENT. I CONGRATULATED LON NOL FORMALLY FOR KOMPONG
CHAM ON SEPTEMBER 14. I AM GIVING SOSTHENE A SORT
OF TESTIMONIAL DINNER WITH ALL SENIOR U.S. MILITARY

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AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (NOW DELAYED BY HIS ILLNESS TO

SEPTEMBER 27) TO COMMEMORATE HIS ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND AS CHIEF OF STAFF 16 SEPTEMBER 1972. AND OF COURSE WE CONTINUE OUR DAILY EFFORTS TO ENERGIZE THE KHMER.

3. BUT THE CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT OF MY MILITARY ASSOCIATES IS THAT EVEN IF IT CONTINUES TO FIGHT AT ITS PRESENT, SOMEWHAT IMPROVED LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS, AND EVEN IF ITS PRESENT BETTER MORALE HOLDS, THE FANK WILL NEED GREATER MOBILITY AND GREATER FIREPOWER TO SURVIVE THE DRY SEASON. AS CHMEDTC HAS RECOMMENDED IN A SEPARATE AND MORE DETAILED MESSAGE TO CINCPAC, WE BELIEVE THE FANK SHOULD HAVE:

(A) THREE ADDITIONAL ARMORED CAVALRY TROOPS TO FILL OUT FANK'S MOBILE STRIKE FORCES;

(B) TWO DIVISION BASES INCLUDING TWO 155 MM ARTILLERY BATTERIES TO BRING THE THIRD AND FIRST DIVISIONS UP TO FULL POWER;

(C) ADDITIONAL RIVERINE CRAFT CONSISTING OF TWO LCM-8S, TWO ATCS, TWO ASPB'S AND TWO MONITORS, TO HELP ASSURE CONTROL OF THE MEKONG FROM THE VIETNAMESE BORDER TO KOMPONG CHAM;

(D) FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTRALS AN/MRC-108 TO IMPROVE COORDINATION.

THE KHMER HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ABSORB AND USE THESE ITEMS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THE EXTRAORDINARY BUDGETARY EFFORT WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE ALREADY MADE TO KEEP THE FANK IN AMMUNITION, AND ARE AWARE OF THE PREJUDICE TO OTHER, HIGH-PRIORITY MAP PROGRAMS.

5. BUT NOW THAT FANK IS ON THE REBOUND AN READY TO PUT SOME GRIT INTO THE PREPARATONS FOR WHAT BY ANYONE'S ACCOUNT WILL BE A VERY HARSH DRY SEASON, THE INVESTMENT WOULD HAVE A HIGH PAYOUT. IT COULD BE THE MARGIN BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE.

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ENDERS
UNQUOTE RUSH

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